

**Montgomery County Commission on Aging
Meeting of the Executive Committee
January 17, 2019**

CoA Attendees:

Jean Dinwiddie, Chair
Stephanie Edelstein, Vice Chair
Beverly Rollins, Secretary
Revathi Vikram, Treasurer
Neal Brown, Co-chair, Health and Wellness Committee
Mort Faller, Co-chair, Public Policy Committee
Alan Kaplan, Co-chair, Health and Wellness Committee
Nanine Meiklejohn, Co-chair, Aging in Community Committee
Monica Schaefer, Co-chair, Aging in Community Committee
Ryan Wilson, Co-chair, Public Policy Committee

Staff:

Shawn Brennan

Welcome/Chair's Remarks:

Dr. Dinwiddie opened the meeting and thanked everyone who has volunteered to co-chair the CoA's working committees. The members who were present introduced themselves.

New Committee Co-Chairs

The Communication and Outreach Committee is being revived. Hillery Tumba and Amy Harbison will co-chair it.

Neal Potter Award Judges

Miriam Kelty, Phyllis Rand, and Stephanie Edelstein have volunteered to serve as judges for the Neal Potter Award.

Appointments of Interviewing Committee

Alan Kaplan, Stephanie Edelstein, and Amoke Alakoye have volunteered to sit on the committee that will interview this year's applicants for the CoA. Approximately twenty-five individuals have applied for the seven openings on the Commission.

Annual Report

Ms. Edelstein stated that the 2018 CoA Annual Report is currently being written. A rough draft is finished and now the committee is working on the final version. She noted that this year's report may be a little longer than past reports. Although there is no due date, Ms. Edelstein is hopeful that the report will be completed by February 28.

December 19, 2018 Executive Committee Minutes

The members approved the minutes of the December 19 Executive Committee meeting.

County Executive FY20 Budget Forums

Ms. Edelstein reported that she attended the budget forum held on Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring on Tuesday. She asked the County Executive about the housing initiative fund and how that fund can be used creatively. She noted that presentations at the forum were good, but that she was the only one there who used the term older adults.

A question was raised about whether, if a CoA member attends a forum, he or she can identify themselves as a CoA member. The consensus of the members was that they can identify themselves as being part of the CoA but should say they are speaking on their own behalf.

Dr. Dinwiddie stated that more forums are scheduled throughout the county and the CoA members should try to attend one in his or her area. Odile Brunetto emailed the schedule of the forums to the members on January 15. Dr. Dinwiddie requested that the members let her know whether they can attend one of the forums.

AAA Director Update

Shawn Brennan provided an update of AAA activities. She noted that the budget cuts proposed by the county government are pending with the County Council for approval. The adult daycare subsidy is the primary budget cut within HHS. She stated, however, that the cuts won't be implemented until contracts are in place which will happen in the last quarter of the fiscal year.

Ms. Brennan noted that Adult Protective Services' caseloads are up 20 percent this year over last; however, that department has not been allocated any additional staff. She stated that individuals from other staffs are expected to be redeployed to Adult Protective Services.

With regard to the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program, Ms. Brennan said that two positions in that program have been filled. One individual who had been working part-time has been hired to work full-time, and an individual who previously worked for the program was rehired. Now only a part-time position still needs to be filled.

Finally, Ms. Brennan briefly discussed Montgomery County's state legislative priorities that are of interest to the CoA. She noted that HHS received permission from the Maryland Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) in 2016 to apply for Medicaid

matching funds, contingent on DDA completing a rate-setting study and releasing new DDA provider rate information. The release of the new rates has not yet occurred. This delay has prevented DHHS from applying for Medicaid matching funds for the past three years, which leaves potential Federal dollars unclaimed. As the State Delegation budget committee members review the DDA budget, the County asks for assistance to ensure that the State remains supportive of the County's efforts to secure Federal matching funds and the application can proceed within the current rate structure. Adjustments can be made in the future when the updated provider rates are released. Ms. Brennan stated that the COA should support this. A question was raised on whether this money will be directed to the Governor's budget. Ms. Brennan stated that she will check on this and report back to the committee.

March 19 Forum Planning

Because of snow, the first meeting of the planning committee for the forum had to be rescheduled and is now set for January 18. Revathi Vikram and Deborah Royster have agreed to co-chair the committee. Other members include Jean Dinwiddie, Amoke Alakoye, Barbara Brubeck, Ruby Moone, Beverly Rollins, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Tho Tran, Syed Yusuf, and Marsha Weber.

Summer Study vs. Winter Focus

The committee members had a lengthy discussion about whether the CoA should conduct summer studies. Dr. Dinwiddie stated that if the CoA does conduct a summer study she would like to see a product as an outcome of it, at least some kind of report. She requested that the members arrive at a consensus on whether summer studies should be pursued.

After weighing the pros and cons the committee members agreed not to conduct summer studies. They agreed that during the months of January and February of this year each committee will decide on its focus, and by June issue a 1-2 page report. After reading the report the CoA will decide whether it wants to do more research on that topic. Committee topics don't have to be approved by the entire CoA, but if the reports have a recommendation for the Council or the State, then they need entire CoA approval. Also, CoA members should consider projects that would cross committee lines and engage the resources of other CoA working committees.

Each Committee to Review Brochure

Dr. Dinwiddie asked that each working committee review the CoA brochure and give comments for suggested revisions to Ms. Brennan, Dr. Brunetto, or Ms. Jones. Ms. Brennan suggested that the CoA's Communications Committee could take the lead on this project. She noted that there is no deadline for the comments but it would be good to have it ready for handout at the CoA's March 19 forum. The brochure has no set lifespan; it is updated when the CoA and HHS believe that it should be updated. Dr. Dinwiddie stated that she will assign the lead for the revisions to the Communications Committee.

Meetings with Council Members to Introduce the CoA And Highlight Our Briefing Book and Any Other Issues

Ms. Edelstein stated that she and Dr. Dinwiddie plan to meet with Council members Chuck Short and Nancy Navarro, and possibly Robin Reilly. Dr. Dinwiddie asked whether anyone else would like to volunteer to meet with other Council members and Dr. Vikram, Mr. Faller, Mr. Brown, Ms. Meiklejohn, and Ms. Rollins volunteered. Ms. Edelstein noted that former CoA members Isabelle Schoenbaum and Noelle Heyman have also volunteered to make visits.

The suggestion was made that Dr. Dinwiddie send an email to all of the CoA members asking whether they would like to participate in the visits, and which Council members they prefer to meet with. It was also suggested that she find out when the Council members are available and to get on their calendar.

It was stated that 2-3 CoA members should go to each meeting. It was noted that a PDF of the briefing book be sent to all of the Council members with a copy of the letter that was sent to Council member, George Leventhal, outlining the CoA's FY20 priorities. A suggestion was made that talking points should be given to the CoA members who will be making the visits, with the general format of introducing the CoA (its purpose), whether the Council member has questions stemming from the briefing book, stating that the CoA members will visit again while the budget is being drafted, and asking the Council members to ensure that Older Adult issues are addressed.

Dr. Dinwiddie stated that she will find out the dates and times of when the Council members are available and will send that information to the CoA members who will be making the visits. The new Council members will be targeted first because returning members should already be acquainted with the CoA. The Council members who will be contacted first will be Nancy Navarro, Andrew Friedson, Evan Glass, and Will Jawando.

Draft CoA Meeting Agenda

Committee members agreed to a few changes to the draft agenda.

Future Speakers

Committee members agreed that Dr. Travis Gayle, Health Officer for Montgomery County, will be asked to speak at the CoA's February meeting. In March, Dr. Dinwiddie will ask a representative from the Maryland Primary Care Group to speak. It was suggested that a panel discussion be organized for the May meeting, possibly featuring Robin Hensch of the Grass Roots Organization for the Well-being of Seniors (GROWS), Janine Tursini of the Arts for the Aging (AFTA) and a representative from the Villages. This panel would use the same format as the one used with the diversity panel discussion that the CoA held in June, 2018. The CoA, however, will not prepare a report after the discussion.

Dr. Dinwiddie noted that, because she will be out of town, the June COA meeting will be rescheduled to June 13.

Committee Reports

Public Policy Committee

Mr. Faller reported that the committee is engaged in the following activities:

- Members are following the status of the Transportation Services Improvement Fund bill in the County Council.
 - The committee recently received a positive response from the City of Baltimore on the proposal for a state-wide Association of Maryland Commissions on Aging (AMCoA). The committee has received a few replies to the letter that was sent to other CoAs and most of them have expressed interest in the idea. Some, however, including Howard County's CoA, are prohibited from lobbying without getting prior approval from their County government.
 - Committee members are monitoring the current State legislative session and have seen about three bills that the CoA may be interested in.
 - Members are researching the Senior Scams Prevention ACT (S.3522), a bill that was introduced in the U.S. Senate that would establish a Senior Scams Prevention Advisory Council to create model educational materials to educate employees of retailers, financial-services companies, and wire-transfer companies on how to identify and prevent scams that affect seniors. Mr. Faller will participate in a conference call in February held by the United Seniors of Maryland (a group that is interested in the bill) to tell them about our CoA.
 - The committee is researching how and whether AARP's "Age Friendly" status would be possible for the State of Maryland.
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Aging in the Community

Ms. Schaefer reported that the committee is completing its discussion on food and security, and looking at community organization "wish lists." The committee is also studying accessory dwelling units, and at the issue of social isolation. Committee members are finalizing topics and who will lead them, and also developing a template for their meetings.

Health & Wellness

Mr. Brown stated that the committee is preparing a report on the Medicaid Waiver program and looking at ways to get more money for the program, more services, and doing away with waiting lists. Dr. Kaplan noted that the committee should have a report ready by March.

As the meeting was closing Ms. Schaefer stated that she would like for members of the CoA to think about these questions: Who does the CoA represent? What is its purview? She commented that it would be an opportunity to broaden awareness of the CoA and to bring more focus on what the CoA can give to the community. Ms. Brennan noted that one organization members may want to contact with this objective is the Vital Living Network.

11:30a Adjourn
